Timely implementation of projects.

All new mines are being planned with mechanization.

Gap between demand and supply of Coal

3103. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have projected a coal shortfall of 55 million tonne against the total demand of 460.50 million tonne during the terminal year of Tenth Plan (2006-07);

(b) whether it is also a fact that the gap between the demand and indigenous supply of coal has not narrowed down inspite of 5.40 per cent growth in domestic coal production; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to reduce the mounting gap between the demand and supply of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. As per midterm appraisal by Planning Commission, the projected gap of 55 million tonnes will decrease to a level of 42.5 million tonnes during the terminal year of 10th Plan (2006-07).

(c) CIL has taken up the following steps to reduce the gap between demand and indigenous supply:

(i) 99 projects have been considered to be taken up during X Plan.

(ii) Improvement in equipment utilization

(iii) Mechanization/modernization of existing mines

(iv) Timely implementation of projects

(v) All new mines are being planned with mechanization.

In addition, 46 captive coal blocks have been allotted to various end users. This would also contribute to reduction in gap between demand and supply.